

Kavita S.J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION NO. 5042 OF 2026

Hemant Pandurang Lad

...Petitioner

Versus

The Principal,
Smt. Smita Ravindra Ghodvinde Law College
& Ors.,

...Respondents

Mr. Sangharsh Shaleya a/w Colait R., Prashant Bharliya & Dinesh Sonawane i/b Part III LC for Petitioners.

D.G. Dhanure a/w Jyoti D. Dhanure for Respondent No.1.

Mr. Rui Rodrigues for Respondent No.2.

Mr. Sameer Khedekar a/w Ms. Mayuri Andhare for Respondent No.3.

Mr. S.P. Kamble, AGP for Respondent No.4 – State.

CORAM : R.I. CHAGLA, AND
ADVAIT M. SETHNA, JJ.

DATED : 24th APRIL, 2026.

ORDER :

1. This Writ Petition has been moved on the ground of urgency. In that the Petitioner who had been admitted in the Respondent No.1 – College and has appeared and cleared examinations in the 1st and 2nd Semesters has been communicated

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through Whatsapp by the Respondent No.1 College that he is not eligible for admission in Respondent No.1 – College. The Petitioner has accordingly sought for urgent ad-interim relief on the ground that the examination of S.Y. L.L.B. is scheduled and commencing from 28th April, 2026 and that the Respondent Nos.1 and 2 are required to be restrained from cancelling, terminating, or in any manner interfering with or obstructing the Petitioner's admission, attendance, or participation in the examinations of S.Y. L.L.B.

2. Mr. Shaleya, learned Counsel appearing for the Petitioner has tendered the Notice dated 9th February, 2026 issued by the Respondent No.3 – Admissions Regulating Authority by which it is stated that the Admissions Regulating Authority has been prima facie satisfied as to the correctness of the eligibility for admission of 58 students which would include the Petitioner in the Respondent No.1 – College for the Academic Year 2024-25. The said Notice has made it clear that the approval granted to the 58 students (admitted provisionally by the Respondent No.1 – College) is based on the documents and the information submitted and made available for verification by the Respondent No.1 – College. It is further clarified that if the case information given is found incorrect and / or in case,

any illegality or irregularity caused in such admissions is brought to notice of the Authority at a later point of time, it will be open for the Authority to take appropriate action accordingly. The said Notice dated 9th February, 2026 addressed to the Dean/Principal of Respondent No.1 – College is taken on record and marked “X” for identification.

3. Mr. Shaleya has submitted that the Petitioner had been granted admission to the Respondent No.1 – College for Academic Year 2024-2025. Prior to being granted admission, the State Common Entrance Test (“CET”) Cell had allotted to the Petitioner the Respondent No.1 – College based upon the PGDBA documents uploaded by the Petitioner and upon being satisfied with the PG qualification requirement, submitted by the UGC Public Notice published in August, 2022 (F.No.3-5/2022(DEB-III)) which declares PG Diplomas from recognized ODL institutions are equivalent to PG Degrees. Further, the CET online portal was initially not accepting the Petitioner’s Application when only his B.Com marks were being entered as he had not met the minimum requirement of 45% marks. Thereafter the portal accepted the form and allowed the Petitioner to proceed and upload only the PGDBA documents. He has placed

reliance upon the Notice issued in August, 2022 (Exhibit-F to the Petition).

4. Mr. Rui Rodrigues, learned Counsel appearing for the Respondent No.2 – University of Mumbai has referred to the Affidavit-in-Reply of Respondent No.2 dated 22nd April, 2026. He has in particular relied upon the Information Brochure of the State CET Cell for 1st year of 3 years Degree Course (Regular – Full Time – Course) Academic Year 2024-2025, wherein it is stipulated that the minimum of 45% marks is required in aggregate in qualifying examination of Graduate Degree and that the Post Graduate Diploma will not be considered as Post Graduate Degree. He has submitted that the Petitioner was accordingly not eligible to obtain admission to the Respondent No.1 – College. He has submitted that it was for the Respondent No.1 – College to verify the documents submitted by the Petitioner prior to granting admission. The Petitioner had obtained admission to the Respondent No.1 – College inspite of not meeting the aforementioned criteria of the State CET Cell. He has submitted that as per instructions received from the Dean of Respondent No.2 – University of Mumbai on 16th April, 2026 the Petitioner is required to obtain equivalence of postgraduate diploma with postgraduate

degree.

5. Mr. Dhanure, learned Counsel appearing for Respondent No.1 – College has supported the case of the Petitioner.

6. Having considered the submissions, it appears that the issue which arises is whether the PG Diploma from recognized ODL institutions are equivalent to PG Degrees as per UGC Public Notice published in August, 2022. The State CET Cell in the said information brochure has not accepted this position.

7. Accordingly, we consider it appropriate that the Petitioner joins the UGC and State CET Cell as party Respondents. Further, the Bar Council of India would also be required to be joined as party Respondent.

8. Considering that the Petitioner has appeared for and cleared the 1st and 2nd Semester Examinations and is regularly attending the classes, we consider it appropriate that as and by way of this ad-interim order to allow the Petitioner to fill the Examination Form for S.Y. L.LB and appear in the examination.

9. The Respondent Nos. 1 and 2 are accordingly restrained

from cancelling, terminating, or in any manner interfering with or obstructing the Petitioner's admission, attendance, or participation in the examinations of S.Y. L.L.B. pending the final hearing and disposal of this Petition.

10. We make it clear that this ad-interim order is subject to the outcome of the present Petition and / or the further orders.

11. No equity shall be claimed by the Petitioner for grant of ad-interim relief.

12. The Petitioner shall amend the Writ Petition by joining the UGC and State CET Cell as party Respondents. Further, the Petitioner shall also join the Bar Council of India as party Respondent. This amendment shall be carried out within a period of two weeks from today. Re-verification is dispensed with.

13. The Writ Petition shall be placed for further consideration on 11th June, 2026.

[ADVAIT M. SETHNA, J.]

[R.I. CHAGLA, J.]